

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. **(Amended)** A method of monitoring at least one computer network ~~from a remote location~~, comprising:
 - benchmark-testing the at least one computer network with test data to obtain benchmark test results relating to data storage traffic from a first site passing over a wide area network to a second site;
 - electronically forwarding the benchmark test results to a remote services site separate from the first site and the second site;
 - periodically operational-testing the at least one computer network with sample data ~~provided from the remote location sent from the first site to the second site over the wide area network~~ to obtain operational test result, wherein the operational-testing is performed while the at least one computer network is carrying live data storage traffic;
 - electronically forwarding the results of the operational-testing to the remote services site; and
 - comparing at the remote services site the operational test results to the benchmark test results to determine network degradation.
2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the benchmark-testing is performed when the at least one computer network is initialized.
3. **(Original)** The method of claim 2 wherein the benchmark-testing includes emulating a production environment.
4. **(Original)** The method of claim 3 wherein emulating the production environment includes generating variations in bandwidth.
5. **(Original)** The method claim 1 wherein the benchmark testing is performed continuously for twenty-four to forty-eight hours.
6. **(Original)** The method of claim 5 wherein the benchmark-testing is a looping test.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the benchmark-testing includes a computer connected to the at least one computer network in addition to the remote site, wherein the computer pushes and pulls test data.
8. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the benchmark-testing is performed while the at least one computer network is not carrying live data storage traffic.
9. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the operational-testing is performed at regular intervals.
10. **(Original)** The method of claim 9 wherein the operational-testing is performed once every hour.
11. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the remote location is operably coupled to the at least one computer network via the Internet.
12. **(Cancelled)**
13. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the sample data is attached to the live data storage traffic.
14. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the sample data rides along with the live data storage traffic.